



The Lutheran Beacon



Let your light shine . . .

WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

Published by the SELC District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

April 2019

Official Notice: 2019 President and Vice-President Nominations Results

The 2019 nominations processes for the offices of President, First Vice-President and regional vice-presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have been completed.

The three candidates who received the highest number of votes for the office of President and have given their consent to serve if elected are:

Matthew C. Harrison, 1181

David P. E. Maier, 947

Timothy M. Klinkenberg, 638

Of those receiving the highest number of nominating votes for the office of First Vice-President, the following 20 candidates have given their consent to serve if elected:

John C. Wille, 457

Peter K. Lange, 436

Scott C. Sailer, 342

John R. Denninger, 273

Jacob A. O. Preus III, 272

Paul A. Linnemann, 234

Derek G. Lecakes, 197

Lawrence R. Rast Jr., 81

Timothy M. Klinkenberg, 76

Scott R. Murray, 73

Clint K. Poppe, 43

Christopher S. Esget, 23

John C. Wohlrabe Jr., 23

Nabil S. Nour, 22

Daniel L. Gard, 9

David A. Floyd, 7

Jamison J. Hardy, 7

Scott K. Seidler, 6

Benjamin T. Ball, 5

Dien A. Taylor, 5

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Of those receiving the highest number of nominating votes for the offices of regional vice-presidents two through six, the following have given their consent to serve if elected:

CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Benjamin T. Ball, 160

Daniel P. May, 85

Scott K. Seidler, 81

Tyler C. Arnold, 17

David R. Nehrenz, 6

EAST-SOUTHEAST REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Christopher S. Esget, 128

Jon T. Diefenthaler, 110

James Wiggins Jr., 82

Kurtis D. Schultz, 73

Jeffrey E. Skopak, 68

GREAT LAKES REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

John C. Wohlrabe Jr., 204

Randolph H. Raasch, 99

Byrene K. (Keith) Haney, 90

Matthew W. Rueger, 11

Peter C. Bender, 6

GREAT PLAINS REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Nabil S. Nour, 272

Dean W. Nadasdy, 60

William G. Utech, 51

Clint K. Poppe, 20

Paul J Cain Jr., 9

WEST-SOUTHWEST REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Larry A. Stoterau, 134

Robert D. Newton, 129

Scott R. Murray, 127

Timothy D. Runtsch, 109

Kenneth M. (Ken) Hennings, 89

Except in the case of President and First Vice-President, these names will constitute the ballots for elections during the July 20–25, 2019, convention of the Synod.

In the case of the President of the Synod, the election will take place four weeks prior to the convention via Internet balloting. No opportunity will be provided to add names to the slate of candidates listed above. Pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the deadline (receipt in the Office of the Secretary by March 24, 2019), or their substitutes (as validly submitted before June 15, 2019), will serve as the voters for this election, with its results to be announced at least two weeks prior to the convention.

In the case of the election of the First Vice-President, the President-elect will select from the list of 20 nominees (listed above) the five candidates (at least two of which must be among the top five nominees) who will comprise the ballot for the election that will take place early in the convention (Bylaw 3.12.2.6). No opportunity will be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the convention.

Regional vice-president elections will follow the order and process required by the Bylaws of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.7). No opportunity will be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the convention.

John W. Sias - Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Personal Evangelism

A Stewardship of People Priority

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

Current Culture

Our current Postmodern Culture is dominated by the secular influences of *Humanism, Pragmatism, Individualism, Pluralism, Relativism, Materialism, and Hedonism*. For definitions of these heavy-headed subjects, check out the article, “**Christian Cultural Influences**”, listed at the end of this article. Despite these influences, many of those in the dark are seeking spiritual light. Especially the Millennials. We should be beacons of light to those around us spiritually groping and stumbling. Jesus defines us in Matt. 5:14-16: “... *you are the light of the world ... let your light shine before men.*” Individually shining the light of God’s word person to person is known as “*Personal Evangelism*”.

Personal Evangelism

How do conversions come about? Through the Holy Spirit, of course. How does He do it? Through the sharing of the **Law & Gospel**, the two pillars of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which seminarians are taught to preach in every sermon. What is the Law? The commandments of God. Their purpose is to convince and convict sinners in their sins.

What is the Gospel? The N.T. Greek word is “*euangelium*” from which the words, “evangelism” and “evangelical”, are derived. It means “*Good News*”, the joyous Christmas message of “*glad tidings of great joy to all people*” regarding our salvation in Christ. It is only in the English language that we define ourselves as Lutheran. In other languages we are known as “The Evangelical Church”. The SELC district has been named “**Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches**”.

As evangelicals we should make it a priority, as stewards (care givers) of people, to individually share the Gospel. Martin Luther, in a 1523 sermon, emphasized that we should be bring others to salvation in Christ even as we have been brought to Him by others. Think back for a moment. Who were those who brought you to Christ by sharing the power of the Holy Spirit in His Word? In the 80's an 90's, at Holy Trinity, Parma, OH, evangelism teams trained in “*Dialogue Evangelism*” successfully visited homes upon invitation and rejoiced in many conversions.

Sharing the Faith

The Barna Research Group summarized reasons why Christians do not readily share their faith: “People who don’t talk very often about faith offer different reasons, but most of those fall into two broad categories: “**avoidance**” and “**ambivalence**”. Either they are too afraid or just don’t care enough or both.” To combat avoidance and ambivalence, the LCMS developed personal evangelism training that’s practical, simple and Lutheran. It’s called “**E1HW**” (**Everyone His Witness**). Since it’s release, the resource has involved nearly 9,000 participants. Evangelism Committees in some districts have made it a priority to provide avenues for congregations to engage the resource.



“E1HW” “Everyone His Witness”



LCMS Personal
Evangelism Resource
www.everyonehiswitness.org

Digital Bibles

Personal evangelism has been enhanced by web sites making digital Bibles readily available. The Lutheran Witness (Feb. 2019) reported information regarding www.biblegateway.com which gives users access to 219 Bible translations in 72 languages including the original O.T. Hebrew and N.T. Greek languages. Over 140 million people from 200 countries visit the website **per day**. The “*YouVersion Bible*” free app makes 1,797 Bible translations available in 1,247 languages. The biggest users? Millennials! These young adults, ages 25 to 34, can’t be forced into anything, but they will listen to what you have to share in friendly conversation and they are very interested in spiritual matters. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, recently shared a favorite motto:

“People Follow Conviction not Coercion”

RELATED RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org - Personal Stewardship

Outreach: “Personal Evangelism”

Culture: “Christian Cultural Influences”

Happening in the Mission Fields of Montreal and the Caribbean

by Rev. Charles St. Onge

English outreach classes at Ascension restarted at the beginning of February, in the midst of the cold and ice of Quebec. Thanks to a vigorous Facebook campaign attendance went up significantly, with almost two dozen attending the first class. Many are Muslims, with a group from Algeria joining recently. Others are from elsewhere in Africa, from Latin America, and from France.

Pray for us as we share English and Jesus with those the Lord is sending us from around the world. Pray for Gail, Susia, Bruce, Veronica, Spencer and Kathryn who volunteer their time to teach and assist each week.

On Sunday, February 17 Pastor St-Onge baptized baby Isaac Blaauw, fourth child of Ben and Julie Blaauw, who drive 30 minutes each way every Sunday to come to worship.



The following Sunday the congregation heard three adults confirm their faith and join them in the Lord's Supper. One is a young woman Pastor St-Onge recently baptized, while the other two are from Nepal and were themselves baptized at an evangelical church in December of last year. "I dreamed of Jesus," said Nirjala, who had been a Hindu. She's already helping on the altar guild and with Ascension's women's group.

Down south in Jamaica, Pastor St-Onge spent five days in February working with the region's short term team director, Erin Mackenzie, as well as local missionaries. They are fast-tracking ministry centre renovations in the hopes of creating space for a second missionary and housing for the LCMS short-term teams now invited to come. He also spent time in study with Claudious Dell as he continues preparation for ordination. The team drove to Westmoreland Parish where they saw the centre where Claudious has been gathering the people of Bath Mountain for bible study and worship, and where it is hoped that another congregation will be planted. They also visited the local school, where Lutheran House Ministries director Ancella Gregory is starting a bible club.

One island over, Haiti has been suffering through a period of terrible unrest. Pastor St-Onge was able to work with Jackie Rychel of Ministry in Mission to get a relief grant to the leadership of the church body there. Please pray for the many regional leaders, pastors and people who are suffering the effects of government corruption and a sense of hopelessness within the population. See pictures and learn more at: <http://intheway.org>.

The Lutheran Beacon

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome!

Send to: **gailpete37@yahoo.com**

Gail Peterson, Ed.

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 12TH

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP RETREAT IN OHIO

by Pastor John Telloni

The annual Spiritual Fellowship Retreat, hosted by St. John's of Massillon, was held on Saturday, March 2nd, at the Dutch Valley Restaurant Banquet Center in Sugarcreek, OH. Forty-two folks were in attendance, representing seven congregations: St. John's, Massillon; Resurrection, Malvern; Christ the King, Lodi; St. Mark, Steubenville, Grace, Lakewood; Calvary, Parma, and Hope, Sunbury (Ohio District).

This year's theme was *JOY: FULLY LUTHERAN*, based on a book written by LC-MS President Matthew Harrison, and the sub-theme was *Praying and Living the Catechism*. Presenters were Pastor John Telloni of St. John, Massillon, and Pastor Chris Cahill of Christ the King, Lodi.

The retreat began with a Service of Word and Sacrament, with Pastors Telloni and Cahill serving as worship leaders. Pastor Telloni introduced the theme in his message basically using the concept of Jesus the Vine and We the Branches from John 15:1-17, which provided a biblical paradigm for the Catechism and its Six Chief Parts flowing out of Jesus' words of *abiding* in Him, His Word, His love, His commandments, the result of which is the blessing of *joy* which is manifested in a life of love, based on Jesus' own self-giving love, in loving God and our neighbor. Hearing the Word and confessing their sins, the members received absolution through Word and the Sacrament of the Altar.

After the service Pastor Telloni prepared those present for the small-group discussion and activity by explaining Luther's rationale for writing the Small and Large Catechisms – a handbook for Christian living, the Christian's "field manual," which not only describes Christian living but shapes it as the Word of God empowers Christians to serve the Lord and one another. By the way, each participant received a copy of *A Simple Explanation of Christianity*, published by C.P.H., which is pocket-sized Small Catechism which Christians can take wherever they go as their "smart book" for their daily life of discipleship.

President Harrison's book assists readers with a devotional use of the Catechism, employing Luther's four-garland method for daily prayers. However, Pastors Cahill and Telloni altered Harrison's approach for this retreat by utilizing the Prayer Pattern known as A.C.T.S. (*Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication*) when using the S.C. in daily devotions. Pastor Telloni introduced a new "letter" into this method's anagram by adding a "P" at the front, standing for *Proclaim*. With Scripture teaching the Christian life in the S.C.'s Chief Parts – Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar, the Christian hears the Word and is taught the Christian life (proclamation), and the believer reacts in prayer through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. So, first the "P" and then the "ACTS" – God speaks, we respond – forming the PACTS – His covenant with us and our covenant with Him! – between God and beloved child in *hearing the Word of God and keeping it* through prayer and a life of love.

Pastor Cahill then took over and described the small group activity that was to take place. With the formation of six groups, representing the 6 Chief Parts, each group was responsible for constructing a collage expressing the meaning and benefits of the chief part that was assigned to it. After a delicious buffet lunch, spokespeople for the groups presented their "artwork" and explained their designs and symbols. Interesting reactions and discussion, moderated by the two presenters, ensued until the time of closing. Thanks are extended to Pastors Telloni and Cahill for their leadership, the members of St. John's Vision Team (Mary Foulks; Larry Meyer; Betty Minch; Mary Kay and Frank Pershing; Cal Shunk; Gail Mizeres, and Pastor Telloni) who organized and supervised the retreat and its amenities; Mike and Mickey Krnach for Altar Guild duties; and the staff of the Dutch Valley Restaurant for their meal and break preparations and service.



What's Happening at the Haven

by Diane Leining

On a cool day in Florida (67°) a bus full of Haven residents went to Blue Springs State Park in Orange City to hopefully see lots and lots of manatees. But it was too warm and the majestic sea cows went back

to the “warmer” waters. We did see a few though and maybe you can see their white noses sticking out of the water in the photo. It was a lovely day and we made the most of it by walking the boardwalk in the park and then eating at a favorite buffet before going back to the Haven campus.



We also attempted to pretend it was winter here in the Sunshine State by having a *Chili Cook Off*. We turned the air conditioning down in our Fellowship Hall so it would seem colder. We had several residents make big pots of chili and the residents tasted each one and voted for their favorite. Kathy Brunton won the Voter's Choice and was awarded – what else – a gift card to Chili's!!



Now that we have a new Fitness Center in our Fellowship Hall and a Fitness Coordinator, Nathan Hatton, exercise has become even more important to our residents. Not only do we have aerobic exercise classes, but also balance, strength and stretch classes. Aerobic and line dancing, yoga, shuffleboard, bocce ball and golf are some of the many ways our residents can keep fit.

We held a Fitness Expo where we highlighted many of these programs and our Chef Joe prepared a very healthy lunch. The instructors led residents in a sampling of their classes, encouraging those who do not come to a class to do so. We want our residents to be happy AND healthy!



The Haven Piecemakers are a group of ladies that make quilts all year long. They usually make approximately 100 quilts a year that are donated to Lutheran World Relief. When they get together, there is a lot of joyful chatter that goes on while they create some of the most beautiful quilts to help warm the world.

With so much to do, the residents keep busy here at the Haven!! The love of the Lord is so obvious here as everyone goes through their day doing His work in so many ways!

Western Circuit Youth Go Against the Tide

by Tim Hasko

Youth from St. John, Cudahy and Pentecost, Racine along with a YMIN team from Concordia University WI went "Against the Tide" at their annual ski trip Feb. 16th & 17th. For some that meant strapping on skis for the first time; for others it meant racing down a hill in a rubber inner tube. But for all it meant setting their mind on things above. "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." (Colossians 3:1-2)

A crisp but sunny winter day made for excellent conditions as the skiers and tubers explored Wilmot Mountain's 23 trails and 22 tubing lanes. Whether you preferred Black Diamond Hills, Bunny Hills, or eating cheese curds in the ski lodge, there was something for everyone. The only casualty of the day was Genevieve's ski pole which decided to go down the hill all by itself.

Back at the church, Pastor Luke Jacob challenged us to go "against the tide" by recognizing where God's Word and the "Ways of the World" diverge. The world tells us things like premarital sex and abortion are just fine. Are we willing to go against the tide?

To prepare for the exciting games led by the CUW YMIN team, the youth first replenished their bodies with Racine's famous Infusino's pizza. Then they were prepared for Wampum, Gargons, Shuffle-Your-Buns, and Super-Dodgeball.

The game "World Map" had a spiritual lesson for us all. As the youth ventured across the map, not knowing the correct path to get to the other side, others who knew the way came to their assistance. Although the youth didn't know the path, they knew there was one. The same is true for us, as God has a plan for our lives although we may not know now exactly what it is.

Kangaroo Court raised \$125.00 for the Luther League scholarship fund and missions. Notable fines included a CUW dinosaur attack against Josiah; and Pastor Jacob referring to a toothpaste tube as a toothpaste "cannister".

We closed the evening with a devotion led by the CUW team, in which we wrote specific sins in marker on sheets of toilet paper. Then we submerged the sheets in a bowl of water. While the water became dark and dirty, the sheets emerged clean and white, symbolizing how Jesus takes our sins and gives us forgiveness in exchange. To close the devotion, the youth were encouraged to think about a particular way they could use their talents in the next year to serve God. Each youth wrote one goal on a picture of a cross for a keepsake of the weekend.

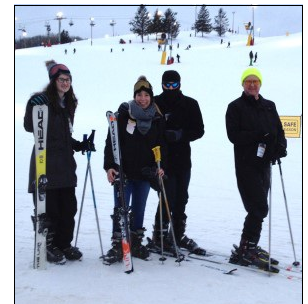
After a night of snacks, games, discussions, and Tim's snoring, the youth were awakened to a breakfast of eggs and sausage, cereal, fruit, and Racine's famous kringle.

We closed our Sunday morning worship with the hymn "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", a long time Luther League tradition.

A special "Thank You" to everyone who made donations of food or money toward the ski trip, and our chaperones, drivers, devotion leaders, Concordia University YMIN Team, and musicians!

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:2



Just As I Am

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Reprinted from *Arrows of Light* by Missionary David Schneider

submitted by Rev. Ken Ballas

To be truthful, the pastor's Sunday sermon doesn't always grab me. Don't get me wrong; I've heard some great preaching. But on some days it seems that the message doesn't quite fit who I am and where I am in life right now.

Perhaps that's one reason why I've come to love Holy Communion so much.

It's time for the Sacrament of the Altar, and I go to the church's altar with my wife and with you to receive it. What a marvelous thing! "This is my body, given for you." "This is my blood, shed for the forgiveness of all your sins." Jesus' body comes into my body, and soul, and spirit. His body touches me at exactly the point where I am—at precisely the mood of this moment. I'm carrying regrets about last week; he removes them and I have a new beginning, fresh and clean. I fear I can't handle next week; he puts his body and blood under the load with mine, and my soul and body relax.

His blood joins my blood, to flow through the particular shape of my life at this time, as complex as it is and as confused as I may be about it. His blood is for my forgiveness, but I can't explain the "why" of my sins to him. I don't even know how many, or exactly what, they are.

I'm sure that, often, I don't recognize when I've dishonored God or hurt some other person. His forgiving blood cleanses me even beyond my knowledge.

He's giving me more than the shirt off his back—more than his last nickel. He's committing himself to become part of my mixed-up life. No questions are asked; none are needed. He knows it all—and comes anyway.

What a risk he takes with me! He doesn't measure himself out, giving just 50% when I seem to have a 50% level of faith and faithfulness. It is the full Christ who comes, with 100% of his redeeming power and victorious life, regardless of my level of commitment. His reckless giving sets me free. Now I can give too.

What a privilege: to receive the Sacrament and thus participate in, and proclaim, his death! It will sustain me until he comes to take us all to the eternal heavenly banquet, where he will wipe all tears from our eyes and hearts.

I guess you don't need to ask why I receive Holy Communion every time it is offered. I don't even know for sure who I will be next week. But he knows, and he will give himself to me just as I am. And the sermon will probably be good too. **See you on Sunday?**

Discussion Starters

Can you single out a favorite aspect of Holy Communion? Is it friendship with Christ? Forgiveness of sins? Fellowship with others in him? Reconciliation with God? Strength for the journey? Still another aspect or way of saying it? Have you ever told anyone about it?

*Break forth, my soul, in joy and say: What wealth has come to me today!
What health of body, mind, and soul! Christ dwells within me, makes me whole.*

(TLH 309:2; LW 245:2; LSB 632:2)

reprinted with permission from David Schneider

Ten Blessings of Adopting

by Michael W. Salemink, Lutherans For Life Executive Director

LFL LifeDate s August 11, 2017

submitted by Ziggy Rein

“God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

God adopts. The Gospel is about adoption. Salvation’s story can’t be told apart from adoption. Christianity can’t happen without it. The Old Testament features an adopted leading man. Pharaoh’s daughter adopting Moses leads to the Hebrews ending up liberated. The New Testament also stars an adopted hero. Joseph adopting Jesus sets in motion sinners getting forgiven. Father Almighty offers His Son and adopts human beings for us to have a faith relationship with the Lord God and the hope of resurrection to everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom.

No wonder early Christians opened the world’s first orphanages. Psalm 68:5-6 proclaims God **“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows. God settles the solitary in a home.”** James 1:27 NIV describes **“look[ing] after orphans and widows in their distress”** as **“[r]eligion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless.”** Articles in this [August 11, 2017] issue of *LifeDate* emphasize adoption’s importance. The blessings of adopting are plentiful:

- ♦ Adopting embodies God’s own self-sacrificial love and unconditional grace. He chooses for His own those who once did not belong.
- ♦ Adopting rescues a child in need into a forever home and a better life (and sometimes also provides relief to the family of origin).
- ♦ Adopting bestows the treasures and joys of a son/daughter (and sibling, grandchild, cousin, etc.) upon the receiving family: **“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. . . . Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”** (Psalm 127:3, 5).
- ♦ Adopting enriches families even when not facing infertility and alongside their biological childbearing.
- ♦ Adopting helps heal the hurts of a child feeling (often repeatedly) abandoned.
- ♦ Adopting extends also to children older than infants (and not only as an alternative to abortion!). Many orphaned or fostered teenagers still want to become part of your household.
- ♦ Adopting forges the deep and strong bonds of facing difficult challenges together.
- ♦ Adopting connects hearts across cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities and forms unions from around the world.
- ♦ Adopting enlists whole communities (especially congregations!) in support, cooperation, and fellowship.
- ♦ Adopting speaks and shows the boundless preciousness of every human life — created, redeemed, and wanted forever by the Lord Himself!

ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES 2018-19



Final concert of our 25th Anniversary Season!!

Sunday - April 7th - 3pm

Charity and Love

Lutheran Cantata Choir and Chamber Ensemble

Free admission - Reception following



Featuring

J.S. Bach: Cantata BWV 92 and
"Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein" BWV 245
plus sacred anthems, motets, hymns and
more in an inspirational program
for the Lenten season.



Sunset at Ponca Inlet-Jan.2019: God's own "water-color" painting!

LCC images courtesy Oviedo Photo Club.



FREE ADMISSION to St. Luke's Concert Series 2018-19 is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as support provided by Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ 2021 SR 426 ~ OVIEDO, FL 32765

Visit: slcs.org/concert-series to be added to our E-base and receive program updates during the 2018-19 season.

